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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 24 July 2015 at 10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Sajdik ..... (Austria)
President: Mr. Oh Joon ..... (Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Temporary President** declared open the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council.

2. A short video of some of the highlights of the work of the Council over the previous 18 months of transition to a July-to-July cycle was shown.

3. **The Temporary President**, reflecting on the work accomplished during his tenure as President in readying the Council for the future, said that, in line with the reform mandates, the Council had been able to convene its first full cycle of meetings.

4. A number of the Council's platforms had already proven their ability to meet the responsibilities of the future, in particular the integration segment and the dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system. Indeed, for the first time, the Council had been mandated to conduct an intergovernmental dialogue on reform of the United Nations development system.

5. In addition to the success of the coordination and management meetings, the Development Cooperation Forum had demonstrated its importance as the global platform for policy dialogue on the role of all forms of development cooperation. The Partnership Forum had allowed the Council to highlight means of mobilizing partnerships in support of the post-2015 development agenda, while the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development would open new horizons for the work of the Council. Furthermore, the increasing number of applications for consultative status reflected a growth interest in engagement with the Council, while the Youth Forum had reached new records in attendance.

6. It was crucial that the Council should communicate the aims and goals of its work to the broader public. The post-2015 development agenda, the Council's work and that of the United Nations should echo across all channels of communication; such efforts were not the sole responsibility of the Department of Public Information, but of Member States as well. The Council was ideally placed to meet the demands of the sustainable development goals and to advance sustainable development for all.

Election of the Bureau

7. **The Temporary President** said that, according to the principle of equitable geographical rotation among the regional groups, it was the turn of Asia-Pacific States to nominate a candidate for President. Consequently, he took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), who had been nominated by those States, to the post of President of the Council.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. *Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) was elected President by acclamation.*

10. *Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) took the Chair.*

11. **The President** said that four candidates had been nominated to fill the vacancies for the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Council from African States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and other States. He took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates nominated by those regional groups.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. *Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Ms. Perceval (Argentina) and Mr. Seger (Switzerland) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Council by acclamation.*

14. **The President** said that in order to fulfil the new responsibilities of the post-2015 development agenda, the Council should make itself relevant by adapting to changes in the global environment and by being more flexible in its agenda and coverage of issues. It should stand ready to tackle emerging and pressing issues such as inequality; in that regard, he would prioritize the convening of a special meeting on inequality in the first quarter of 2016. The high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council would help the Council to strengthen its own coordinating role, especially in the context of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the establishment of an effective review and follow-up mechanism.

15. The Council would strengthen and harmonize its efforts by working more closely with its subsidiary bodies. It would prioritize the alignment of its themes and programmes and the rationalization of its agendas and functional commissions. The Council would also lead efforts to build an inclusive and engaging global

partnership, in particular through the Development Cooperation Forum.

16. Lastly, new development partners, such as the private sector, civil society and other non-State actors, were all assuming important roles in the implementation of the transformative and universal development agenda. In that connection, multi-stakeholder partnerships deserved special focus. A renewed global partnership for sustainable development would be a key to mobilizing the means necessary to implement the agenda and create an enabling environment. He was confident in the Council's ability to fully support the start of the new development agenda.

17. **Mr. Hanif** (Director, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination), delivering a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu Hongbo, said that the Council could help lead the transition from the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda to its implementation. The high-level political forum and the Council could work at the global level to build broad-based ownership in the implementation of that agenda and institutionalize inclusive, transparent and constructive follow-up and review processes.

18. Development cooperation was a key area in which the Council could add value, in particular through the Development Cooperation Forum. Its work could help bring focus to non-financial means of implementation, including technology transfer and capacity-building, and help identify and address gaps in those areas, as well as in data, monitoring and accountability. It was important to ensure that the Council added value without unnecessarily burdening stakeholders, especially national Governments, which were at the frontline of implementation.

19. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was strongly committed to supporting the dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and would make every effort to ensure that the process was transparent, inclusive and informed by high-quality analytical work. The Department was also fully committed to supporting the Council and the high-level political forum, the apex of a global network of review processes on the sustainable development goals.

20. To that end, it would support the Council in meeting the demands of the new agenda, including the increased demand for policy integration and coherence at all levels. It would continue to strengthen the Council's capacity to provide guidance through its analytical work, and would promote and facilitate the substantive engagement of civil society, including young people. It would also shape the partnerships that were essential to the implementation of the new development agenda. Through the collective expertise of the Council and Member States, action-led solutions that would turn the ambitions of the post-2015 agenda into reality could be created. He looked forward to supporting the new President, the Bureau and entire membership of the Council during the period ahead.

21. **Ms. Klausa** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and in addition Georgia, Lichtenstein, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union strongly supported the Council and had been actively involved in its revitalization. The Council should build on the progress achieved in connection with the valuable instruments that had been implemented in recent years in the light of the challenges and expectations set by the post-2015 development agenda.

22. To fulfil its mandate, the Council should strive for greater relevance and ensure better coherence and efficiency in the response of its subsidiary bodies, and the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to mandates arising from the outcomes of major conferences in the economic, social and environmental fields. The Council should also ensure a coherent policy vision on the post-2015 development agenda in order to contribute to convergence and coordination and avoid any overlap or duplication in activities and processes.

23. The Council should support the dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system. Likewise, the high-level political forum should also become the apex of a global network for follow up, monitoring and review of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. That would imply a multilevel architecture with system-wide coherence, complementarity among the various United Nations bodies and institutions and input from the Council system.

24. The European Union was among those that had suggested the setting of milestones in preparing the high-level political forum to perform its role. One of the Council's most important features was its multi-stakeholder nature, which should be better reflected in its working methods. The European Union would continue to support the Council, its President and the Bureau.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2016/1)

25. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to approve the provisional agenda and programme of work for 2016, as contained in document E/2016/1.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. *The provisional agenda and programme of work for 2016 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2016/1: Working arrangements for the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council

28. **The President** drew attention to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which called for the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism that would be composed of, inter alia, a collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The two-day forum was to be convened annually by the President of the Council prior to meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the Council, or in conjunction with other forums or conferences. The Action Agenda also called for an annual Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

29. Once the General Assembly had endorsed the Action Agenda, the Council would be invited to take the necessary steps to launch a forum on financing for development follow-up. He would keep the Council apprised of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals.

30. He then invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2016/L.1, which had been prepared in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/1, and which referred to the potential impact that the outcome of intergovernmental processes such as the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda might have on the Council's programme of work. The draft resolution also invited the Council to approve its core corking arrangements for the 2016 session with the understanding that it would be adjusted as required in the future, in particular following the adoption by the General Assembly of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

31. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution.

32. *It was so decided.*

33. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.1 was adopted.*

34. **The President** proposed that, as in the past, lots should be drawn to determine which delegation would occupy the first seat in the Council seating arrangements for 2016.

35. *The delegation of Panama was selected by the drawing of lots to take the first seat.*

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.